

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: SARA BRADFORD
TELEPHONE: 519-271-0220 X123
EMAIL: SBRADFORD@SPLIBRARY.CA
WEBSITE: WWW.SPLIBRARY.CA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 27, 2026

STRATFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY RELEASES 2025 ANNUAL REPORT - CELEBRATING GROWTH, INNOVATION, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Stratford, ON – The Stratford Public Library (SPL) is proud to release its 2025 Annual Report, showcasing another remarkable year of growth, innovation, and community connection.

The report highlights the many ways the library continues to evolve to meet community needs, with increased program attendance, growing membership, expanded collections, and new partnerships that support learning, creativity, wellness, and belonging for residents of all ages.

In 2025, the Library welcomed more than 151,000 in-person visits, saw over 400,000 items borrowed, and delivered more than 900 programs attended by over 28,000 people. Programs ranged from literacy and technology support to community events, wellness activities, and engaging youth programming.

“The 2025 Annual Report demonstrates how busy and dynamic our library is every day,” said Krista Robinson, CEO of Stratford Public Library. “Our library is an essential community gathering space, and a trusted source of connection, support, and opportunity.”

Alongside the Annual Report, SPL is also sharing the results of the recent Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit (VOLT) survey, which measures the social and economic value libraries bring to their communities. The VOLT results revealed that for every municipal dollar invested in Stratford Public Library, the community receives an estimated social return of \$5.85. The library’s total annual economic impact was calculated at more than \$18 million, representing an estimated value of approximately \$523 per resident.

“These findings reinforce what our community already knows — the library plays a vital role in the lives of Stratford residents,” said Robinson. “Whether someone is attending programs, accessing technology, borrowing materials, finding a welcoming space, or

discovering community connections, the value of the library extends far beyond its walls.”

Highlights from the year included:

- New programming focusing on building community connections
- A record 1,212 children registered in the TD Summer Reading program
- Expanded language materials for children through the Lote4Kids database
- Growth of the Library of Things collection to include Yoto players, and Carbon Dioxide and Radon Detector kits
- Launch of the Poet Laureate program with Destination Stratford

SPL is looking ahead with excitement following the recent approval by City of Stratford to support \$15 million toward the development of a new community facility in partnership with the YMCA of Three Rivers. This milestone represents an important step toward building a new a shared community space at the Grand Trunk that will expand opportunities for connection, learning, recreation, and community services for generations to come.

“I am so thankful for our staff and the hard work they do, and for the support of our community. I encourage everyone to read this report and to stay connected with us through regular visits to the library and by following us on social media or our e-newsletter.”

The Library’s 2025 Annual Report can be read on the library website – www.splibrary.ca